APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Please amend page 2, fourth paragraph, as follows:

~~This object is attained by the features of the characterizing part of claim 1.~~ This and other objects are achieved by a method of operating a telecommunications system, which includes a switching facility and a plurality of subscriber channels over which data are transmitted in packet form, wherein calls from subscribers to an internet are recognized, and wherein, at the front end of the switching facility associated with the subscribers, those packets of the plurality of subscriber channels that are to be sent to the internet are combined onto a single channel.

Please amend page 3, second paragraph, as follows:

The invention also provides a telecommunications system ~~as claimed in claim 3 and a concentrator as claimed in claim 7.~~ having subscriber channels over which data are transmitted in packet form, and a switching facility having crosspoints, wherein each crosspoint is capable of switching one of the subscriber channels to an outgoing channel. Further, at least one concentrator is provided, which combines packets of two or more subscriber channels that are to

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be sent to the internet onto at least one concentrating channel that leads to the switching facility. Therein, the concentrator is switched via a switching path and the number of concentrating channels is less than the number of subscriber channels.

According to another formulation of the claimed invention, a concentrator is provided, which has at least one device for concentrating data incoming on two or more B channels in a single, outgoing channel.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of operating a telecommunications system ~~comprising~~ having a switching facility and a plurality of subscriber channels over which data are ~~transmissible~~ transmitted in packet form, comprising:

~~characterized in that~~ recognizing calls from subscribers to an internet ~~are recognized,~~; and ~~that in~~ at the front end of the switching facility associated with said subscribers, combining those packets of ~~a~~ the plurality of subscriber channels that are to be sent to the internet ~~are combined~~ onto a single channel ~~(concentrating channel)~~.

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2. (Amended) ~~A~~ The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two or more concentrating channels are provided, and ~~that~~ wherein packets of two or more subscribers are fed into the two or more concentrating channels without fixed assignment to the subscribers.

3. (Amended) A telecommunications system, comprising:

subscriber channels over which data are ~~transmissible~~ transmitted in packet form~~, and~~;

a switching facility ~~(10) with~~ having crosspoints, each crosspoint capable of switching ~~a~~ one of the subscriber ~~channel~~ channels to an outgoing channel~~, particularly for carrying out the method claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~; and

at least one concentrator ~~(55, 55') is provided~~, which combines packets of two or more of the subscriber channels to be sent to an internet onto at least one concentrating channel leading to the switching facility and switched via a switching path, ~~with~~ wherein ~~the~~ a number of ~~the~~ two or more concentrating channels ~~being~~ is less than ~~the~~ a number of ~~said~~ the subscriber channels.

4. (Amended) ~~A~~ The telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized by being designed to also~~wherein the telecommunications system is configured to transmit voice signals on the subscriber ~~lines~~ channels.

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5. (Twice Amended) ~~A~~ The telecommunications system as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a distribution unit ~~(destination unit 80) is provided which distributes~~ configured to distribute combined packets to two or more of the subscriber channels, particularly for routing the packets to at least one service provider determined by a destination address.

6. (Twice Amended) ~~A~~ The telecommunications system as claimed claim 3, ~~characterized in that it is~~ wherein the telecommunications system comprises an ISDN system.

7. (Twice Amended) A concentrator suitable for use in a method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized by~~ comprising at least one device ~~(90)~~ for concentrating data incoming on two or more B channels ~~(92)~~ in a single, outgoing channel ~~(57) (concentrating channel)~~.

8. (Amended) ~~A~~ The concentrator as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized by comprising~~ wherein two or more devices ~~(90) which~~ are configured to together control the feeding of packets into at least one concentrating channel ~~(57)~~, particularly with a view to avoiding and controlling access contention.

9. (Twice Amended) ~~A~~ The concentrator as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized by being switchable~~ wherein the concentrator is configured to switch so as to route data not to be concentrated to associated outgoing B channels ~~(93)~~.